

will be made at a fixed unit price per metric ton of SNF delivered. This price may vary by service region.

Contract Award Period and Performance

This overall waste acceptance, transportation and storage project is anticipated to last approximately forty years. DOE therefore anticipates periodically seeking competitive proposals from potential offerors on a regional basis over the forty-year period. DOE's current plans call for the Phase A contract award(s) to be made in April 1998 based on a July 1997 RFP release date and up to five months for evaluation by DOE of Phase A deliverables. Phase B would begin approximately seventeen months after the award of Phase A contract(s), subject to completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Phase C is anticipated to commence at the end of the third year of Phase B, (i.e., year 2002) after Congress has designated a Federal storage location. Thereafter, waste acceptance and transportation services would be recompeted in five-year increments.

Comments

OCRWM is interested in receiving comments relating to the draft RFP regarding the acquisition of waste acceptance and transportation services, especially with regard to the following issues:

1. Creative approaches for RSAs to interact with State, Tribal and local governments and interested parties in addressing key institutional issues such as routing and prenotification.
2. Structuring the procurement to provide sufficient financial incentive and other appropriate risk allocating mechanisms between DOE and contractors in order for industry to provide waste acceptance and transportation services.
3. Appropriate financial safeguards for delay in commencement of Phase C as a result of a delay in the start of operations of a Federal facility.
4. Other possible approaches for the RSA's to maximize their ability to service purchasers who cannot accommodate large rail canisters.
5. Any other regulatory requirements, terms or conditions that DOE should consider in formulating this acquisition.

DOE will consider and may utilize all information, recommendations, and suggestions provided in response to this notice. Respondents should not provide any information that they consider to be privileged or confidential or which the respondent does not want disclosed to

the public. DOE does not intend to respond to comments, either to individual commentors or by publication of a formal notice. Copies of all comments will be placed in the DOE Forrestal Building Public Reading Room. Each submittal should consist of one original and three photocopies.

This notice should not be construed (1) as a commitment by the Department to enter into any agreement with any entity submitting comments in response to this Notice, (2) as a commitment to issue any RFP concerning the subject of this Notice, or (3) as a request for proposals.

The solicitation will be available for downloading on the internet from the "Current Business Opportunities at Headquarters Procurement Operations" Home Page located at address <http://www.pr.doe.gov/solicit.html>. It is also available on the OCRWM Home Page located at <http://www.rw.doe.gov/>. Interested parties that do not have the electronic capability to download the solicitation shall submit a written request to the Contracting Officer at the address listed above.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on December 18, 1996.

Daniel A. Dreyfus,

Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management.

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Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. RP97-194-000]

El Paso Natural Gas Company, Notice of Proposed Changes in FERC Gas Tariff

December 20, 1996.

Take notice that on December 17, 1996, pursuant to Subpart C of Part 154 of the Commission's Regulations Under the Natural Gas Act, El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) tendered for filing following tariff sheets, to become effective April 1, 1997:

Second Revised Volume No. 1-A

Original Sheet No. 210A
First Revised Sheet No. 211
Second Revised Sheet No. 217
Original Sheet No. 217A

El Paso states that these sheets are being tendered to modify El Paso's proposed pooling and intra-day scheduling tariff provisions that were originally proposed at Docket No. RP97-20-000.

El Paso requests waiver of the notice requirement of Section 154.207 of the

Commission's Regulations to permit the tariff sheets to become effective April 1, 1997, when El Paso is scheduled to implement the GISB Standards.

El Paso states that copies of the filing were served upon all interstate pipeline system customers of El Paso and interested state regulatory commissions.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Sections 385.214 and 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such motions or protests should be filed on or before January 7, 1997. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

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[Docket No. CP97-155-000]

Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

December 20, 1996.

Take notice that on December 16, 1996, Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line Company (Panhandle), P.O. Box 1642, Houston, Texas 77251-1642, filed in Docket No. CP97-155-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.212 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.212) for authorization to construct, own and operate an additional meter and appurtenant facilities at its existing metering station for Lafarge Corporation (Lafarge) in Paulding County, Ohio under Panhandle's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP83-83-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Panhandle's proposed facilities will consist of a two-inch turbine meter, approximately 60 feet of 2-inch pipe and appurtenant facilities. Panhandle states that the facilities will increase the capacity of the metering station from 17 Mcf per hour to 62 Mcf per hour and